

Message Text

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ACTION PM-03

INFO OCT-01 NEA-06 ISO-00 MC-01 CIAE-00 INR-05 NSAE-00

RSC-01 SS-15 NSC-05 /037 W

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R 301132Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1619

SECDEF WASHDC

INFO USCINCEUR//ECJ4/7 SAOCD//

CNO WASHDC//OP63//

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUWAIT 5112

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, KU

SUBJ: A NAVY FOR KUWAIT

REF: KUWAIT 4197 DTG 300433Z SEP 74

1. IN AN ADDRESS DELIVERED TO THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ON 31 OCT THE AMIR STATED THAT THE GOK HAD FORMED THE NUCLEUS OF A NAVY.

2. AS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED IN REFTEL, DISCUSSIONS WITH CHIEF OF STAFF, KUWAIT ARMED FORCES INDICATED THAT THE GOK DESIRES ABOUT TEN HIGH SPEED PATROL CRAFT EQUIPPED WITH A SURFACE TO SURFACE MISSILE SYSTEM. IN ADDITION, THEY ARE STILL CONSIDERING WHETHER OR NOT TO HAVE A MINE-SWEEPING AND/OR MINE LAYING CAPABILITY.

3. ADDITIONALLY, WE HAVE BEEN INFORMED BY RELIABLE HIGH PLACED SOURCES THAT FRENCH DESIGNED SAAR PATROL CRAFT ARMED WITH EXOCET SSM ARE BEING OFFERED.

4. ESTABLISHING A NAVY EVEN OF THIS SMALL SIZE IS NOT AN EASY UNDERTAKING; HOWEVER IT APPEARS THAT THEY HAVE MADE THEIR DECISION. CREWS FOR 10 SUCH CRAFT WILL REQUIRE ABOUT 120 MEN. WE WOULD ESTIMATE THAT ABOUT AN
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EQUAL NUMBER WOULD BE REQUIRED FOR SHORE BASED SUPPORT ETC.

FURTHER, WE WOULD EXPECT THAT ABOUT ONE HALF OF THE TOTAL WOULD REQUIRE A SUBSTANTIAL DEGREE OF TECHNICAL TRAINING. WHILE THIS WILL STRAIN THEIR TECHNICAL MANPOWER ASSETS A BIT MORE, THE NUMBERS DO NOT APPEAR TO BE PROHIBITIVE. OVERALL PLANNED SIZE OF THE KUWAITI ARMD FORCES WILL BE APPROXIMATELY AS FOLLOWS:

ARMY	8000
AIR FORCE	5000
NAVY	500
TOTAL	13500

AS A PERCENTAGE OF POPULATION THIS APPROXIMATELY THE SCALE OF THE US ARMED FORCES OR TWO THIRDS OF THE SCALE OF THE US DOD..

5. WE HAVE BEEN ASKED WILL THE USG RELEASE HARPOON (AGM-84) TO THE GOK. ALSO, IT APPEARS THAT THE USN PHM WILL MEET THE NEEDS OF THE KUWAITIS.

6. THE AMIR'S SPEECH HAS REMOVED ALL DOUBT AS TO WHETHER OR NOT KUWAIT WILL HAVE A NAVY. REGARDLESS OF WHO SUPPLIES THE EQUIPMENT, THE IMPACT ON TECHNICALLY TRAINED MANPOWER WILL BE THE SAME. ALSO A NAVY OF THIS SIZE AND CAPABILITY IS CONSISTENT WITH THEIR DEFENSE PHILOSOPHY WHICH THE USG HAS IMPLICITLY BUT CLEARLY SUPPORTED -- A SHARP THORN TO ANY AGRESSOR (READ IRAQ) BUT WITHOUT THE SIZE OR CAPABILITY TO PROJECT THEIR FORCE ANY GREAT DISTANCE BEYOND THEIR BORDERS.

7. I RECOMMEND THAT WE OFFER THE PHM WITH HARPOON TO THE GOK. REQUEST THAT I BE AUTHORIZED TO INFORM THE GOK THAT THE USG IS WILLING TO ASSIST THE GOK IN ESTABLISHING A NAVY AND PROVIDING HARPOON EQUIPPED FAST PATROL CRAFT IF THEY SO DESIRE.
STOLTZFUS

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